

SHOOT FOR GOAL

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Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year



MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

VS



FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 1994

KICK OFF 8⁰⁰ PM

HONOURS

1959	Division 1 - Champions
1961	Division 1 - Champions
1964	Division 1 - Champions
1966	Armstrong Cup
1968	State League Champions, Ampol Cup, Dockerty Cup
1969	Dockerty Cup
1971	State League Cup, Ampol Cup, Inter City Cup
1972	Ampol Cup
1977	Armstrong Cup
1978	State League Champions, Ampol Cup, State League Cup
1979	State League Champions, Dockerty Cup, State League Cup
1980	Ampol Cup, Dockerty Cup, State League Cup
1981	State League Cup
1983	Dockerty Cup, State League Cup
1985	Dockerty Cup
1986	Ampol Cup, Ansett Cup
1987	Ampol Cup, Ansett Cup
1989-90	Dockerty Cup, Australian Champions (Youth)
1990-91	Minor Premiers NSL
1991-92	Minor Premiers NSL
1993-94	Minor Premiers NSL
1994-95	Johnnie Walker Cup

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SHOOT FOR GOLD

EDITORIAL TEAM: Mirko Cugura, Ljubomir Glavan, John Smoljko, Peter Smoljko, The Guru Johnny H

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EDITORIAL

On behalf of the club and editorial team we would like to wish all supporters of soccer a very special MERRY CHRISTMAS and a joyous new year. Unfortunately the Christmas celebrations will undoubtedly be better for one group of supporters than the other, but that's soccer.

These derbys in previous years have produced some epic encounters, largely due to the competitive nature of both teams and supporters, and undoubtedly this one won't be any different. Both teams have fairly good knowledge of each other, as a result of these two high class teams meeting each other on numerous occasions in league, cups and finals matches.

No doubt Frank Arok has drummed into his players the importance of this weeks game in reference to South's chances of making

this year's final, so the Knights will have to be at their best to give there supporters an early Christmas gift.

Away from the match for a moment. The Knights recently had a Christmas party at the club for all of the people who help out at the club. There was a plentiful supply of food and beverages with the players all joining in after training making for a very enjoyable evening. This gesture of appreciation goes a long way to making the people, who commit themselves to various tasks week after week, feel that the effort they put in is not in vain. To the club and committee, thank-you very much.

ED.

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TEAM LINE UP'S



1. Frank JURIC
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3. Fausto DeAMICIS
4. David CERVINSKI
5. Steve HORVAT
6. Andrew MARTH
7. Mark SILIC
8. Josip BISKIC (C)
9. Mark VIDUKA
10. Ljubo LAPSANSKY
11. Joseph SPITERI
12. Adrian CERVINSKI
13. Damian VOJTEK
14. Daniel TIATTO
15. Zoran MARKOVSKI
16. Ante KOVACEVIC
17. Vlado VANIS
18. Krunoslav RAZOV
19. Damian GRGANOVIC
20. Oliver PONDELJAK
29. Peter SCHWELLINGER
30. Vilson KNEZEVIC

Coach Mirko Bacic
 Ass.Coach Willie Borovnjak
 Team Manager Davor Filipovic
 Team Doctor Dr. Darko Sulava



1. Dean ANASTASIADIS
2. Kevin MUSCAT
3. Gary HASLER
4. Mehmet DURAKOVIC
5. Mike VALKANIS
6. Paul WADE
7. Jason POLAK
8. Ivan KELIC
9. Paul TRIMBOLI
10. Zeljko VRBANJAC
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13. Francis AWARITEFE
14. Mike PETERSEN
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16. Steve PANOPOULOS
18. John VERIKAKIS
19. Con KOMILIONIS
20. Jim LATINOPOULOS
21. Steve MANGOS
22. Steve MAUTONE
23. Bill DAMIANOS
24. Giancarlo LUCCHETTA

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Oh, how the mighty have fallen this year, and in particular South Melbourne. Many Knights supporters in the past would not have had to go past the third placed team on the ladder before they came across their beloved team. Upon seeing this they would then automatically search for South Melbourne's position. This reaction was largely been due to the great rivalry the two clubs have shared over the years, a rivalry that is based on one simple fact, to be the best team in Australia you must first be the best team in Victoria.

This in itself holds great prestige, and is the reason both clubs hold each other in great regard, for the two clubs have monopolised this position, over the last decade. So as a lover of soccer and a keen supporter of the Knights, it frightens me to think that if South Melbourne continues the way they have been

this year, that maybe in the very near future the Knights may be playing for Victorian supremacy against the likes of Heidelberg, Brunswick or dare I say it Morwell.

Things aren't quite that bad for South Melbourne just yet, and to be honest they have had more than their fair share of bad luck. But South Melbourne the team that has been the nemesis of the Knights over recent years, are at their most dangerous at this point when they have been written-off by almost everyone.

This week the rumour mill has been grinding whispers at an incredible rate, but even though the Knights had a slight hiccup in Morwell, I can't see an unsettled South Melbourne pulling this one off.

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The rise of Danny

It is good to see that the local press has been supporting our Knights. In the past few weeks Steven Milne from the Western Times has written articles on our club, here is one such article, which appeared in the Western Times on December 7 1994 titled "Danny has dream run".

"Melbourne Knights coach Mirko Bazic couldn't take his eyes off the baby-faced midfielder running like the wind.

Bazic saw the youngster sizzle up and down the left side of the pitch for Premier League side Bulleen, against NSL team Heidelberg United in a Dockerty Cup match in October.

Quite by accident, he'd stumbled onto a classy player who could fit perfectly into the Knights' line-up. Bazic was watching the game just to fill in time before his team's match against the Melbourne Zebras, which followed.

Danny Tiatto, of Werribee, was about to get the invitation of his lifetime.

"Mirko came up to me after the game and asked me if I'd like to train with the Melbourne

Knights the following Tuesday night," the 21-year old recalled. "It was a complete surprise. I've always wanted to play in the NSL. I was just hoping someone would see me. Luckily Mirko did."

And what a past couple of months it's been for Tiatto and his new club.

Tiatto has been an astonishing success in the midfield, instrumental in the Knights' record-breaking start to the season. The North Sunshine based Knights are on top of the ladder, undefeated after seven rounds. Already some soccer experts are comparing them with the best sides in the NSL's history.

"It's absolutely unbelievable, I still have trouble believing that it's really happening," Tiatto said.

His exceptional form has earned him a spot in the Australian Olyroos Olympic (under-23) squad alongside the talent of team-mate Mark Viduka and South Melbourne ace Kevin Muscat



The Olyroos will play Japan, Korea and Denmark in the Four Nations Cup in Sydney in January 1995.

"I'm rapt, it's so exciting," Tiatto said.

It's little wonder Tiatto has been one of the favourites of the Knights' fans. His dashes downfield simply delight. There was a definite hum along the crowd every time Tiatto turned defence into attack during last Sunday's 2-1 win

over Heidelberg at the Melbourne Croatia Sports Centre in Somers Street, North Sunshine.

"I try my best every match to make sure of my spot," Tiatto said. "We've got so much depth. You have to keep playing well to stay in. My main strength would have to be my pace. I've always been quick, so I just try to run, run, run... never stop during a game."

Tiatto admitted that having strikers of the calibre of Mark Viduka and Joe Spiteri further up the field made his job easier.

"They know how to create space for themselves which makes it easier for us midfielders to provide through balls for them. It makes you want to run and deliver (the ball) to them whenever you can."

Tiatto's father, Rick, was a semiprofessional player in Italy during his playing days.

Tiatto attended St. Andrew's primary school and MacKillop College, both in Werribee and lives in the suburb with his parents Rick and Margaret, brother, Frank (27), and sisters, Diana (19) and Yvette (5)."

We at the Melbourne Knights would like to thank Steven Milne and the Western Times for allowing us to reprint this article.



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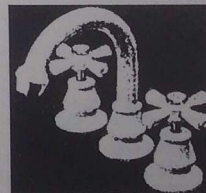
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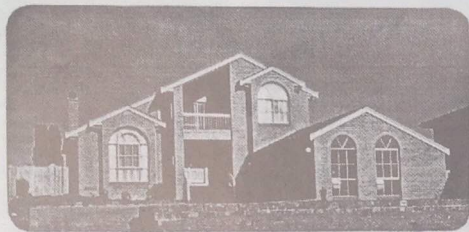
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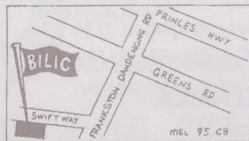


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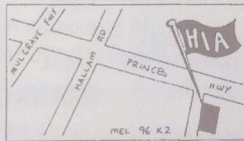
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YOUNG KNIGHTS

Melbourne Knights Youth Team 1994-95

Following a pre-season that saw over 25 players try out for the final squad, and an unbeaten record in pre-season friendlies, and the selection of 6 players from last seasons successful under 16 team, an exiting season was expected for the Melbourne Knights Youth team.

Following a good 6-2 win over Springvale City in the first round, we suffered a, now looked upon, embarrassing 1-2 loss to Preston Lions. The players then re-grouped to go undefeated in the next 4 games (2 wins, 2 draws including

time, and being down to 10 men, to win 2-1 to keep us in touch with the top four teams. We followed this up with a 11-0 trashing of bottom placed Green Gully.

With a third of the season gone, the time has now come to make sure we don't drop any more silly points to weaker opposition, and that we take our chances against the better teams.

In summary, a more consistent second half to the season is required. The young players in the



1-1 draw against Melbourne Zebras in which we totally dominated and also missed a penalty) to find ourselves 6th after the 6 games. But then unexpectedly, inconsistency again crept in, and we found ourselves on the wrong end of an embarrassing 7-1 home defeat against Heidelberg United. The loss led to the questioning of some of the players' character and commitment, and nothing less than a win against higher placed Morwell Falcons in Morwell, would be tolerated. To the boys credit they came back from being 1-0 down at half

side should now feel more confident knowing they can match it with players 3 to 5 years older than them, and therefore our short, and the clubs long term future, looks very promising.

On behalf of the coach, Sveto Rastocic, and all the Melbourne Knights Youth team, we wish all Melbourne Knights supporters a Merry Christmas, and a safe, and championship winning 1995.

George Dragovic



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Australian National Champions 1984, 91
 CCSL Premiers 1993
 National League Cup Winners 1990
 Dockerty Cup Winners 1974, 75, 89, 91, 93
 Vic Health Cup Gold Winners 1984, 88, 89, 90
 Victorian Ampol Cup Winners 1969, 70, 76, 82
 State League Champions 1962, 64, 65, 66, 72, 74, 76
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24 HOUR EMERGENCY

The Knights March On

The dynamic style of the Knights has been most entertaining with games having a carnival like atmosphere, and this Friday's game should not be any different. This atmosphere stems from the expectation of free flowing soccer and many goals, all of which have been in plentiful supply so far this season.

Sydney United attempted to outplay us at our own game, wrong move. The Zebras tried to crowd the centre of the park and play the offside trap. It worked because up until that round a team conceding only three goals was an admiral performance, but it was relatively uninteresting game for spectators. The last two games have shown that this season is not going to be all roses for the Knights and that much effort will be required for optimum results to be achieved this season.

What has been the reason for all the early season success? Is it the striking combination of Viduka

and Spiteri? Is it the wing speed of Tiatto and Lapsansky? Is it the central midfield strength and control of Marth and Biskic? Is it the overlapping attacking defenders Buljubasic and Silic? Is it the central defensive determination and judgement of Horvat and Cervinski? Is it the solid keeping skill of Juric? It's actually obvious that the success of the team is purely based on an excellent balance of skill, speed and determination of the whole side with attacking moves originating from all parts of the park.

It is hoped that coach Mirko Bazic can keep the players motivated and happy for the rest of the season.

On behalf of the editorial team we would like to take this opportunity to wish Adrian Cervinski all the best with his new club Wollongong and hope to see him back with the Knights next season.



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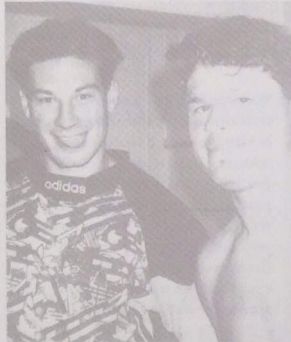
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1994/95 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS SEASON

ROUND 1	H	Melbourne Knights Viduka	1	Brisbane Strikers	0
ROUND 2	A	Wollongong City 0		Melbourne Knights Viduka (2)	2
ROUND 3	H	Melbourne Knights Spiteri (3)	3	West Adelaide	0
ROUND 4	A	Parramatta Eagles Orlic	1	Melbourne Knights Marth, Spiteri (2), Viduka	4
ROUND 5	H	Melbourne Knights Marth, Spiteri, Buljubasic, Lapsansky	4	Sydney United Moric	1
ROUND 6	A	Melbourne S.C.	1	Melbourne Knights Marth, Viduka	3
Round 7	H	Melbourne Knights Lapsansky, Viduka	2	Heidelberg United	1
Round 8	A	Morwell Falcons	1	Melbourne Knights Silic	1
Round 9		Bye			

MATCH OF THE DAY SUNDAYS 7.30 PM



**ON THE BALL
SUNDAYS 11.30AM**

**GOAL
TUESDAYS 6.00PM**

NSL TABLE

	P	W	D	S	L	F	A	Pt
Melbourne Knights	8	7	1	1	0	20	5	30
Adelaide City	8	6	2	1	0	14	5	27
West Adelaide	9	4	2	2	3	7	9	20
Brisbane Strikers	9	4	2	-	3	12	6	18
Parramatta	9	4	4	4	4	10	11	18
Sydney United	8	3	3	2	2	8	6	17
Wollongong City	9	3	2	-	4	12	14	14
Morwell	8	1	6	3	1	10	11	13
Marcony	8	2	3	2	3	9	11	13
Sydney Olympic	8	2	3	1	3	7	9	12
South Melbourne	8	1	2	1	5	13	17	7
Melbourne Zebras	8	1	2	1	5	7	17	7
Heidelberg Utd	8	1	1	-	6	6	15	5

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